

## BROOKHART, RADICAL, FIGHTS SHIP BILL IN MILD SENATE DEBUT

'Fire-Eating' Iowan Reads  
Maiden Speech That  
Fails to Alarm.

PLACES FARMER FIRST

Williams Attacks Norris  
Rural Credits Measure as  
Worse Than Subsidy.

BORAH IN FILIBUSTER

Says Shipping Can Wait Un-  
til Relief Has Been Given  
to Farmer.

By LOUIS SEIBOLD.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau,  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.

The most interesting contribution  
to the fight in the Senate against  
President Harding's ship subsidy bill  
was furnished to-day by Smith W.  
Brookhart, Iowa radical elected as a  
Republican.

Mr. Brookhart, who was heralded  
as the "successor of Roosevelt" by his  
adherents in the region of the Missis-  
sippi, made his debut as the most  
ardent champion of the farmers  
elected to Congress in many years.  
He fully qualified to the role, but he  
did not live up to the advance notices  
which described him as a "fire eater"  
of the Jack Cade or Cromwell type or  
the coming chieftain on which the  
mantle of Hiram Johnson was to fall.

Mr. Brookhart did provide a most  
instructive view of the ambitions of  
the new radical school, of which he  
is the most conspicuous example yet  
to come to the Senate. He did so in  
the 4,000 word speech he read to the  
Senate much after the manner of a  
college sophomore delivering an oration.  
Here is one paragraph:

"It is a strange psychology when  
the mind refuses to see before its very  
eyes the flag nailed to the masthead  
of every ship by the hand of the Gov-  
ernment itself. It is more strange and  
more weird if our patriotism shall not  
be supported by unfurling the yellow  
flag of Wall Street above the Stars  
and Stripes."

Believe Bark Worse Than Bitter.

This and other bizarre gems of  
metaphor aroused the farmers of  
Iowa to an excited state of mind dur-  
ing the recent campaign and let loose  
surcharged emotions which spurred  
them to send Mr. Brookhart to the  
Senate with a margin of 162,000 votes  
over his Democratic adversary.

After listening to the maiden effort  
of the "Iowa radical" who was sched-  
uled to become the Moses to lead the  
way through the lean agrarian wilder-  
ness to the promised land, a full and  
attentive audience of Senators decided  
that Mr. Brookhart's bark was worse  
than his bite. No revolutionary chief-  
tain could have been less alarming; no  
statesman responding to the "advance  
thought" of the discontented less  
blatant, demagogic or orally ferocious.

The fact is, after listening to the  
first chapter of his maiden effort, yet  
to be completed, most of Mr. Brook-  
hart's Senatorial associates voted him  
as mild mannered a crusader as ever  
came out of the wheat belt with a  
message and a warning calculated to  
make the reactionary politicians of  
the country tremble in their boots.

Only Casual Attention.

His meticulously phrased address  
which revealed studious and accurate  
research, lacked the fire that reflects  
unfamiliar skill. While never  
drear or boring, the message that  
Mr. Brookhart delivered held only  
casual attention after the first five  
minutes. Perhaps Mr. Brookhart will  
do better when he gets the feel of the  
Senate, as it were, under the urge  
of a controversial combat.

Holding the center of the stage with-  
out interruption Mr. Brookhart read-  
and at times droned—his carefully  
prepared denunciation of political methods  
and economic conditions with intense  
earnestness. It was a complete re-  
flection of the dominant thought of the  
agricultural regions. It was the sort  
of speech long familiar to the sponsors  
and followers of the Non-Partisan  
League in the Dakotas.

Mr. Brookhart was at a disadvantage  
to following Senator Borah, who was  
his best, and John Sharp Williams,  
whose viewpoint is always logical and  
whose conclusions are sound and in-  
structive. Plotted against two es-  
tablished aristocrats of intellectual  
technique Mr. Brookhart neither "set  
fire" to the Senate nor gave cause for ap-  
prehension to those who jealously  
guard their hard won reputations for  
legislative polemics.

Flattering Interest at First.

The Senate displayed flattering in-  
terest in Mr. Brookhart for many per-  
tinent reasons. The most important of  
these was his victory in the face of  
the opposition of the more conservative  
and reasonably liberal minded leaders  
of his own party, the next his open  
opposition to the policies of the Har-  
ding Administration, and, finally, his  
expressed declaration of war against  
every element and influence in na-

Continued on Page Eight.

## Bishop Slattery Asserts Parsons Smoke Too Much

BOSTON, Dec. 18.—Bishop Co-  
adjuutor Slattery of the Epis-  
copal Diocese of Massachu-  
setts, addressing an assembly of  
Congregational ministers to-day,  
outlined his ideas of the way a  
minister should spend his time.  
"Many persons smoke too much  
and read too many story books,"  
he said. Adding that while he did  
not oppose either "it should be re-  
membered that the place for a  
novel is not in the study."  
"A pastor should be studying all  
the time. One way to force your-  
self to study is to teach a class;  
another is to write a treatise. As  
to the latter, it is comparatively  
unimportant whether it is pub-  
lished; writing it clarifies your  
thoughts."

## HOUSTON, FIBLE & CO. SUSPENDS TRADING

Largest Brokerage House in  
Southwest Closes With  
Liabilities Millions.

WHEAT HINTED AS CAUSE

Head of Firm Announces He  
Can Pay Large Per Cent.  
If Given Time.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 18.—Hous-  
ton, Fible & Co., the largest broker-  
age of stocks and bonds in the South-  
west, closed their office to-day at 335 Bal-  
timore avenue. No one at the estab-  
lishment to-day was willing to admit  
the company had been trading on its  
own account. That almost invariably  
has been the cause of brokerage fail-  
ures—the tying up of firm capital in  
stock purchases made on its own ac-  
count. Legitimate brokerage houses  
are presumed to avoid speculation on  
their own account.

The failure came as a thunderbolt  
to the financial men of Kansas City.  
Even the clerks of the company had  
no inkling of the trouble. Every one  
was in his place at the office ready  
for work at 9 o'clock this morning.  
The day opened like any other Mon-  
day. Late in the afternoon, however,  
for the firm has almost a thousand custom-  
ers on the books. The telephone keys  
began their preliminary rattle. But over  
the private wire came a message that  
was carried to W. M. Fible. A blow had  
fallen in New York and at the New  
York Stock Exchange. The firm had  
been called on for \$300,000, a margin  
which was not at hand.

Causes Contention.

The message from New York was sent  
by Mr. Fible's partner, W. R. Houston,  
who had gone to New York Friday. The  
scale that followed may be common-  
place in Wall Street, but on Baltimore  
avenue it was astounding. The trading  
room and offices were cleared of  
customers. Mr. Fible hastily summoned  
a lawyer from the firm of Lathrop, Mor-  
row, Fox & Moore. A brief conference,  
then two things:

On the locked doors was pasted this  
notice:

"The business of Houston, Fible & Co.  
is in my hands as assignee for the bene-  
fit of creditors."  
Mr. Reynolds was the lawyer who  
had been summoned.

Judge Arba S. Van Valkenburgh of  
the Federal Court appointed Mr. Rey-  
nolds receiver. He conserve all the assets  
of the firm for all the creditors. This  
was done to forestall possible attempts  
to throw the firm into bankruptcy. It was  
announced.

Mr. Fible put on his hat and coat  
and departed for his home.

A second message from Mr. Houston  
in New York, and announced by the  
office here, was that if customers would  
consent to voluntary liquidation, the  
firm would be able to pay 50 per cent.  
of its liabilities in fifteen days, 10 per  
cent. in sixty days and 5 per cent. later  
on. That would indicate that the short-  
age would be approximately 5 per cent.

Liabilities Not Known.

The amount of liabilities is not known,  
but the assets immediately available  
are nearly \$200,000, including \$20,000 in  
banks and \$170,000 with New York  
firms with which they did business.  
No money is owed to Kansas City banks  
by Houston, Fible & Co. Money had  
been borrowed from the city, however,  
because of the liquid collateral offered  
the firm was getting its loans at lower  
interest rates in New York.

Mr. Reynolds said his first procedure  
will be an audit. He said he is not  
sufficiently familiar with the business  
to comment on the failure.

Houston Fible had been in business  
thirty years. He is a member of the  
New York Cotton Exchange and the  
Chicago Board of Trade. Branch  
offices are maintained in Tulsa and  
Oklahoma City.

The suspension of Houston, Fible &  
Continued on Page Five.

## Christmas Turkey Prices Tumble 8 to 10 Cents Below Thanksgiving

The Christmas dinner will cost less  
than the Thanksgiving meal. Turkeys  
yesterday were 8 and 10 cents a pound  
cheaper than last month, and are ex-  
pected to drop further by the end of  
the week. Celery is several cents a  
bunch less and cranberries and other  
essentials of the menu are quoted at  
lower prices.

The bulk of New York's supply of  
turkeys has been held up by the cold  
in the West and will not arrive until  
Thursday and Friday. A shipment of  
eighteen cars due this afternoon from  
St. Louis has been delayed two days,  
and other turkeys have been similarly  
held up. Dealers said a plentiful supply  
was in sight, however, and the turkeys  
would be of better quality than at  
Thanksgiving because of another month  
of fattening.

The finest grade Western turkeys sold  
yesterday at 40 and 50 cents a pound  
wholesale. Missouri and Minnesota birds  
were quoted at 51 and 52 cents and  
Texas stock sold for 45 and 46 cents.  
New York turkeys were priced at 51  
and 52 cents.

New York is assured of a full supply  
of Christmas turkeys, with prices about  
half what they were a year ago. Cedars  
from 4 to 15 feet in height, with from  
two to six in a bundle, sold for \$1.50  
to \$2 a package. Other single trees from  
15 to 50 feet sold for \$3 to \$100. Dealers  
reported the demand good and the  
stock was used up.

Holly dropped to half the price of a  
week ago, when it sold for \$5 to \$6 a  
case wholesale. Shippers in the Southern  
States overestimated the needs of New  
York. It was said, and sent the holly in  
carload lots. The holly has a profusion  
of red berries, in contrast with the stock  
of last Christmas, when artificial flower  
manufacturers had to be appealed to  
to supply imitation berries.

DEWEY'S "DEW-TUNE" TONIC.  
Blood, Nerve and Body Builders.  
Sold only at 138 Fulton St., N. Y. C.—Ado.

## BANDITS KILL GUARD, GET \$200,000 AFTER DENVER MINT BATTLE

Gang in Motor Surprises  
Guards in Transfer of Re-  
serve Bank Fund.

ALL OVER IN MINUTE

Federal Building Windows,  
Stores and Apartments  
Riddled With Shot.

STOLEN MONEY INSURED

Cashier Is Fired Upon by Gov-  
ernment Employees by  
Mistake.

Denver, Dec. 18.—Masked bandits  
with sawed off shotguns to-day fatally  
wounded Charles Linton, guard of the  
Denver branch of the Kansas City  
Federal Reserve Bank, stole \$200,000  
in currency of \$5 denomination at the  
doorstep of the Government mint and  
escaped.

The robbery took place in less than  
a minute. To-night every highway in  
the State is watched and police and  
Federal authorities have sent armed  
squads in pursuit of an automobile  
occupied by seven men seen speeding  
northward soon after the robbery.  
One of the men was bleeding.

The robbery occurred while the  
money was being transferred from the  
mint to a Federal Reserve delivery  
truck. Fifty packages of currency of  
\$4,000 each were seized by the robbers.  
Denver police said the holdup was  
the largest and the most sensational  
ever made in Colorado. Two bandits  
bomarded the front door of the mint  
with their guns as they leaped from  
their automobile. Fifty Government em-  
ployees rushed to the doors or windows  
of the mint with shotguns and shot at  
the holdup men, who returned the fire  
as they loaded the packages of currency  
into their own car.

Robbers Surprise Bank Crew.

The robbers drove up in their car as  
four members of the Federal Reserve  
bank crew employed in the transfer of  
the funds, J. E. Olson, cashier; C. T.  
Linton, J. Adams and William Haver-  
ner, left the entrance of the mint and  
were walking toward their machine at the  
curb.

Two or three men carrying guns  
leaped from the bandits' car and with  
a shout of "Hands up!" opened fire on  
the reserve bank employees.  
Linton tried to throw the money into  
the delivery truck, but the robbers  
seized the money and shot at the res-  
erve truck and was shot by the leader  
of the bandits. He died at the county  
hospital without regaining consciousness.  
Employees and guards at the mint  
were afraid to shoot freely at the  
bandits for fear they might kill mem-  
bers of the reserve bank crew.

As soon as the robbers got the cur-  
rency, they drove away through a rain of bullets  
from the second story of the mint.  
The leader of the highwaymen, standing  
on the running board, turned toward  
the police of the West Forty-second  
street, Peter Kiedinger, a guard at the  
main entrance, fired with a rifle. The  
bandit crumpled up on the running  
board and was pulled inside the car.

The money was the property of the  
Denver Federal Reserve Bank, the mint  
merely being a depository. The loss  
was covered by insurance and the num-  
ber of every bill in the consignment  
is on record.

Stores and Homes Riddled.

So terrific was the gunfire during the  
robbery that fire bullet holes were  
counted in the transoms above the main  
entrance to the mint and in the windows  
of the second story. The granite  
walls of the Government building are  
riddled in the transoms above the main  
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of the second story. The granite  
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of the second story.

E. Olson, cashier of the Denver  
branch, was in the car of the guards  
who were transferring the money from  
the mint to the truck, had the most  
precarious position of any one partici-  
pating in the robbery.

We had just gotten the money from  
the mint when a car drove up and I  
heard some one say "Hands up." I started  
to rush into the mint for help. The  
guards inside the mint started to shoot  
at me.

"I never held up my hands. After one  
of the mint guards had shot at me I  
screamed for him not to shoot me but  
to shoot at the bandits. Who are you?"  
he asked. I told him, and then he  
directed his fire in the direction of the  
bandits."

Continued on Page Five.

## Soldier in Tropics Wins Prize Coal Offered Here

SOME of the friends of Sergeant  
Thomas C. Kane, U. S. A., for-  
merly at Fort Totten, but  
now stationed at Coronado, Canal  
Zone, wrote to him that the White-  
stone Lodge of Odd Fellows, of  
which he is a member, was going  
to give a carnival and that a ton  
of coal was offered as a prize.  
The sergeant always eager to help  
the lodge, sent back his name to be  
entered among the more than  
900 contestants. At the contest  
Saturday night the sergeant won  
the coal, and the other contestants,  
all of whom could use a little coal,  
are wondering what he is going to  
do with it, as he wrote when he  
sent in his name for the contest  
that the temperature was about  
100 in the shade in the Canal Zone.

## WHALENS SLATED FOR TRANSIT POST

New City Job Expected to Pay  
Its Commissioner \$15,000  
or Perhaps More.

CABINET PLUMS RIPENING

Delaney to Be Efficiency Man  
for Hyman—Tammany Paw  
on Dock Patronage.

At least half a dozen changes in  
Mayor Hyman's cabinet are due Janu-  
ary 1. The November election caused  
three vacancies—Health, Corrections  
and Corporation Counsel—and two  
new posts are to be filled—Assistant  
to the Mayor at \$9,000 a year and  
probably a new City Commissioner of  
Transit at a salary to be determined  
by the Board of Estimate.

Each change in the cabinet is ex-  
pected to be accompanied by a resolu-  
tion of the Board of Estimate re-  
questing the Board of Aldermen to  
increase the salary from \$7,500 to  
\$10,000. This has been done in the  
case of the Health and Corrections  
departments.

The best authority yesterday said  
that John H. Delaney, Commissioner of  
Docks, will get the place of Assistant to  
the Mayor. This is a position created  
by the 1923 budget. Mr. Delaney's  
duties will be somewhat similar to those  
of the Federal Director of the Budget.  
He is to be efficiency man for the Hy-  
man administration.

Dr. Ferguson Slated.

Dr. John A. Ferguson, a member of  
the Board of Education, is slated for  
Health Commissioner Copeland's job.  
He is the Mayor's personal physician  
and a friend and neighbor. If he is ap-  
pointed, there will be two vacancies on  
the Board of Education. Harry B.  
Chambers resigned a week ago because  
of pressure of private business.

Grever A. Whalen is mentioned as  
probable candidate for the new job of  
Transit Commissioner. It is expected  
that Gov. Smith's administration will  
turn the transit problem over to the  
city, abolish the present Board of  
Docks and erect a new municipal depart-  
ment.

Mr. Whalen is Commissioner of  
Plant and Structures, and, as such, has  
charge of city buses, trolleys and fer-  
ries. He is anxious to undertake the  
trolley job.

For the Plant and Structures position,  
John F. Sinnott, secretary to the Mayor  
and the Mayor's son-in-law, is spoken  
of as a candidate. He is a member of  
the Board of Education. Harry B.  
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Continued on Page Five.

## SINGER REPORTS THEFT OF \$100,000 JEWELS

Mrs. Tumbridge Says Case  
Was Not Out of Sight.

Mrs. Jessica L. Tumbridge of 243 East  
Seventy-second street, widow of Capt.  
William Tumbridge, who used to own  
the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn, and  
who sings on the concert stage under  
the name of Alicia Wetherburn, reported  
that the police of the West Forty-second  
street station last night that jewelry  
valued at \$100,000 was stolen from her  
vanity case between 6:30 and 9 o'clock.  
She said that the jewels must have been  
taken while she was in a taxi cab, while  
she was in a photographer's studio or  
while she was dressing for dinner in her  
home. Yet at no time that she could  
recall, she said, was the case out of her  
sight.

Mrs. Tumbridge told her story to De-  
tectives Mackell, Bradley and Leach. She  
was greatly excited and said that she  
could not list all of the pieces of jewelry  
that she had with her, but could she re-  
call whether they were insured. Her  
attorney, she said, had that information.  
She was accompanied to the police sta-  
tion by a friend, who is a taxi driver, and  
18 years old and who told the police that  
the first he heard of the robbery was  
when Mrs. Tumbridge came running  
downstairs crying out that she had been  
robbed. They hurried to the police sta-  
tion.

Mrs. Tumbridge told the police that  
the only pieces of jewelry she could re-  
member were a diamond ring, a ring of  
eight carats, two diamond rings  
with stones between four and five carats  
each, a marquise ring set with twenty  
diamonds, a ruby and diamond ring,  
a ring set with a sapphire and four  
amethysts. The jewelry, she said, was  
given to her by her husband.

## STRAUS SEEKS STATE \$10,000,000 FUND TO BUY COAL FOR NEEDY

Senator Will Ask Gov. Mil-  
ler to Certify Emergency  
Appropriation.

WOULD SELL AT COST

Fuel Administration Office  
Argues Money Can't  
Add to Supply.

TO OPEN RELIEF POSTS

Forty Stations Will Handle  
Anthracite in Lots of 200  
Pounds.

State Senator Nathan Straus, Jr.,  
declared yesterday that within a day  
or two he would appeal to Gov. Miller  
to certify to the Secretary of State  
that such an emergency exists in the  
anthracite shortage as to warrant the  
State in using the \$10,000,000 appro-  
priated at the extraordinary session of  
the Legislature.

"When the Governor officially de-  
clares the existence of such an emer-  
gency," said Senator Straus, "that will  
enable the Fuel Administrator imme-  
diately to buy coal and sell it in small  
lots at the carload price to persons  
who are in need."

"The Fuel Administrator in his let-  
ter to me calls attention to the fact  
that he is working with the Mayor's  
committee of women in an effort to  
relieve distress. The Mayor's com-  
mittee has cooperated generously with  
the Straus Coal Committee, but it lacks  
funds for doing work on a large scale.  
When the Governor certifies to the  
existence of a coal crisis the Fuel Ad-  
ministrator will have at his disposal  
\$10,000,000 to buy and sell coal. This  
coal need not, except in rare instances,  
be given away."

Concerning Mr. Woodin's offer to give  
him a job to help out in the office of the  
State Fuel Administration Senator Straus  
said: "We want action, not words. If  
Mr. Woodin attacked the efficiency of  
the State Senate I should not reply by  
offering him a job as State Senator."

Lack of Coal, Not Money.

The State Administrator had gone to  
Pennsylvania yesterday to hurry along  
New York's coal allotments. Mr.  
Woodin's staff associates and some of  
the borough Deputy Fuel Administra-  
tors, however, thought it highly im-  
probable that Gov. Miller would grant  
Senator Straus's appeal. Even \$10,000,000  
of the State's money, they said,  
could not create any more coal than is  
being mined. The emergency is not due  
to lack of money but to shortage of coal.  
If the State should undertake to go into  
the coal business it would have to buy  
its supplies from the independent com-  
panies, as the output of the "old life"  
corporations—known as "company coal"—  
is all contracted for in advance and  
is taken away for distribution immedi-  
ately on arrival.

If the State started in buying "inde-  
pendent coal," it was explained, it would  
tend to force a "runaway market" and  
higher prices. For the State to go into  
the business, it was contended, would  
neither expedite rail deliveries nor local  
distribution, which now are in the  
hands of men who have not only the  
experience but also the equipment for  
best dealing with such a situation, a  
situation which already is being handled  
as efficiently and as economically as it  
can be.

In line with the relief Senator Straus  
urges was the announcement that the  
Fuel Administration has perfected its  
plan for establishing a relief station in  
Brooklyn, where it will be possible to  
row, forty coal relief stations through-  
out the city at which domestic anthracite  
will be sold in lots not exceeding  
20 pounds at a probable fixed price of  
30 cents a hundredweight, which would  
be at a rate of \$14 a short ton.

The stations will be established at  
the yards of various cooperating deal-  
ers, fourteen to be in Manhattan, four-  
teen in Brooklyn and twelve in the Bronx.

Most Furnish Delivery.

Coal sold from these stations will be  
substantially, if not exclusively,  
of the stove and chestnut sizes. None  
of the so-called substitutes, such as  
buckwheat or soft coal, will be handled.  
The yards will be stocked with coal  
yesterday to meet this trade. Pending  
the completion of that task Arthur S.  
Leary, Deputy Fuel Administrator for  
the greater city, withheld advance areas of  
state anthracite which exists in the do-  
mestic anthracite stockpile. The number  
of carloads of domestic anthracite  
reported at New Jersey tide-  
water points yesterday was 897 as com-  
pared with 551 last Saturday, which  
was cited as proof of the larger ship-  
ment now coming to this point. The  
Lehigh Valley Railroad Company is-  
sued a statement showing that anthracite  
mined along its lines between Sep-  
tember 15, when the strike ended, and  
December 14, inclusive, totaled 3,548,  
494 tons, an increase of 202,074 tons  
as compared with the same time in  
1920, and 643,197 tons more than for  
the same period last year.

While the Fuel Administration wel-  
comed these figures, the public was  
cautioned that "no increase in anthracite  
shipments can diminish the 40 per  
cent. shortage which exists in the do-  
mestic anthracite stockpile, a shortage  
which is likely to be nearer 50 per  
cent. before January is finished." The  
use of substitutes will continue to be  
imperative.

Atlantic Coast Line thru service daily.  
Augusta, Charleston, Savannah—PEN-  
sion Office 1216 B-way. Tel. Longacre 5865.—Ado.

## MORGAN DECLARES EUROPE MUST FIRST HELP HERSELF

J. P. MORGAN & CO. issued a statement last night confirming  
the report that Dr. Otto Wiedfeldt, the German Ambassador,  
had called on Mr. Morgan on Saturday to inquire as to the  
possibility of a large German loan. Mr. Morgan told Dr. Wiedfeldt  
that it was not possible to discuss a loan to Germany under present  
conditions. It is understood that Dr. Wiedfeldt had been officially  
instructed by the German Government to sound out the American  
bankers.

The statement said: "Dr. Otto Wiedfeldt, the German Ambassador,  
called on Mr. Morgan on Saturday to make inquiry as to the possi-  
bility of our undertaking to assist in floating a large so-called inter-  
national loan to Germany. In his reply Mr. Morgan adverted to the  
statement that he had made following the sittings of the bankers'  
committee last June and, in effect, told the Ambassador that our posi-  
tion was exactly the same as it was then. He informed him that, while  
we greatly desired to be of service to the general situation, nevertheless  
matters had manifestly reached such a point that it was not possible  
for us to discuss or consider a loan to Germany unless and until the  
reparations question was settled."

## AMERICA HAMSTRUNG SAYS ADMIRAL SIMS

'Any One Can Spit on the Phil-  
ippines Who Wants Them,'  
He Declares.

PACIFIC BASE USELESS

Congress Won't Give Money  
to Fortify Guam, Thus Leav-  
ing Navy Helpless.

Rear Admiral William S. Sims, re-  
tired, did some plain speaking yester-  
day at the Union League Club. He  
summarized America's position on the  
high seas in a single terse sentence,  
which he repeated several times:

"We are hamstrung in the Pacific  
and nailed down in the Atlantic."

"Any one can spit on the Philip-  
pines who wants them," he said, "and  
we can't stop them. The same thing  
is true of Guam. The first thing any  
power would do in the event of a war  
in the Pacific would be to seize Guam  
so that our fleet could not go beyond  
that point."

The reason Guam was not fortified,  
explained Admiral Sims, was because  
Congress refused to appropriate the  
money in the absence of any public  
pressure. Some of the Congressmen  
didn't even know where Guam was, so  
you couldn't expect them to take any  
interest in it if their constituents didn't.  
Thus, in the opinion of Admiral Sims,  
the whole blame rested upon the com-  
placency and ignorance of the general  
public.

He would like to see courses at col-  
lege such as they have in every uni-  
versity in Europe teaching at least the  
outlines of military maneuvers so the  
people would realize that without a  
naval station such as Guam our fleet is  
valueless in the western area of the  
Pacific. He would like to see it made  
a "little Gibraltar" and computed that  
it could be adequately fortified at about  
half the cost of an ordinary battleship.

"We surrendered our right to fortify  
Guam and the Philippines or any posses-  
sions west of Hawaii at the armistice  
conference. The reason this was done  
was because we had not been able  
to get an appropriation for Guam,  
and since the Japanese had been going  
ahead and fortifying their Pacific sta-  
tions the only way to stop them was to  
sign an order putting a stop to opera-  
tions of this kind."

Honolulu, he said, was beginning to be  
pretty well fortified, and could stand a  
siege while the fleet was occupied else-  
where, footloose and free. But Guam is  
3,000 miles from Honolulu, and a fleet  
with a cruising radius of 5,000 miles  
would use all their fuel to reach the op-  
erating point and then "build only wig-  
gle their thumbs at the enemy and steam  
back."

The Admiral said a number of years  
ago when he had charge of target prac-  
tice for the fleet he decided to take the  
ships down to Pensacola. But his su-  
perior refused to permit this and ordered  
the fleet to return to the Atlantic.

The reason he did that was this:  
They wanted a naval base at Guan-  
tanamo and they knew Congress didn't  
know where it was, and they figured if  
they were down there for two or three  
years and got the name well fixed in  
the public mind it might have some ef-  
fect. And it did. When the bill for  
the appropriation came